

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7017

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Daniel Dewayne Merriweather of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Staff Sergeant Daniel Dewayne Merriweather, a courageous member of the United States Army who gave his life in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, following in the patriotic tradition for which our nation's finest sons and daughters are renowned, Sergeant Daniel Merriweather was a brave and honorable member of the United States military; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Merriweather, who had previously served a tour of duty in Iraq, lost his life while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan on January 13, 2010; he was twenty-five years of age; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Merriweather, a native of Memphis, graduated from Overton High School, where he studied journalism and played football, and was a devoted member of Miracle Temple Ministries; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Merriweather is survived by his loving wife, Rachelle Merriweather; his two sons, Kale Michael Rausch and Daniel Merriweather, Jr.; his mother, Pamela Finnie; his father, Darryl Finnie; his sisters, Adrienne Winton and Aleshia Robinson; his brothers, Darryl Finnie, Jr., Allen Robinson, and Brandon Robinson; his grandmother, Rose Finnie; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Merriweather's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of family, his fellow soldiers, and his country are exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear and stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that

have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, this valiant American leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Staff Sergeant Daniel Merriweather, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Daniel Dewayne Merriweather, a man of impeccable character and limitless courage who stalwartly committed himself to the defense of his nation as a member of the United States military, and reflect fondly upon his bravery and dedication to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Sergeant Merriweather.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.